QUAINT OLD GERMANTOWN

SIXTY VIEWS OF ANCIENT LANDMARKS

PHILADELPHIA 1913

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SERIES OF SIXTY
FORMER
LANDMARKS
AND VICINITY.

DRAWN ON ZINC

1863



DURING THE YEARS

BY JOHN RICHARDS. COLLATED, ARRANGED AND ANNOTATED

JULIUS FRIEDRICH SACHSE, LITT. D.

PRINTED MOSTLY FROM THE ORIGINAL ZINC PLATES

PHILADELPHIA

QUAINT OLD GERMANTOWN.

UAINT, historic, old Germantown, the earliest organized German community in Pennsylvania, if not in the western world. A settlement made under a grant by William Penn, founded more than two and a quarter centuries ago, and renowned for almost all these years for its quaint buildings scattered along its single main street, its curious characters, singular customs of its early inhabitants, superstitions and folk-lore. Many of these traditions and habits are still kept alive in some of the old families of the original German stock, who are now in the seventh and eighth generation from the early immigrant.

This quaint townstead, when laid out by Pastorius for the Frankfort Company, was far away from Penn's projected sylvan city on the Delaware, and for many years was a community in itself. But now, after the lapse of two centuries, it is one of the most fashionable sections of the great consolidated city of Philadelphia, and is officially known as the Twenty-second Ward.

The peculiar straggling homes of the early settlers on the single street, have given place to modern stores and houses, a network of streets has been opened through adjoining gardens and

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fields, and the whole plot of the old German township is now covered by an almost solidly built-up city—of homes, business houses and industrial establishments.

Many of the humble, unpretentious structures, portrayed in this work, have given place to the pretentious mansions and palatial residences of some of Philadelphia's wealthy citizens.

From the very beginning of the Germantown settlement, there have been curious characters who flourished within the townstead, or in the immediate vicinity. As early as 1694 we have the arrival of the mystical community of German Pietists, under the leadership of the gentle Magister Johannes Kelpius and his follower Johannes Seelig, and later Dr. Christopher Witt and his Famulus, Daniel Geissler, both buried upon "Spook Hill." Now, after two centuries, their graves are enclosed within the chancel of St. Michael's P. E. Church on High Street, which is built on the old Warner graveyard. A proper memorial tablet has within late years been placed upon the walls of the sacred edifice. The incentive for this act was the published history of these "German Pietists" by the present writer.

Then there was Conrad Matthai, mystic and recluse, the last of these "Hermits on the Wissahickon," who died at the end of August, 1748. He was said to have been of noble birth, but his identity has never been solved.

Later in the century we have Christian Lehman, a scholar of Dr. Witt, who cast nativities and horoscopes.

Mention must also be made of the founders of the Dunker Church in America—Alexander Mack and his followers—who founded the First-Day (Sunday) Brethren, and Conrad Beissel and his converts, who started the Seventh-Day congregation of the Brethren.



The names of the Eckerlin brothers, the Gorgas family and others of the Ephrata Community, are also identified more or less with Germantown: the former especially so hy their close connection with Christopher Sauer the elder, the erratic printer of Germantown.

Count Zinzendorf, Bechtel and the early Moravians who, during the middle of the XVIIIth century, were active factors in the German Township, must not be forgotten.

Benjamin Lay, the Pythagorean hermit, whose cave was on the York Road, was also in close communion with the Quakers of Germantown. During the Revolutionary period the name of Christopher Ludwick, as Baker-general of the Continental Army, stands out in bold relief.

Coming down to our own day, there came to Germantown, about sixty years ago, a young Swede, John Richards, as he was known, who worked as a gardener and day laborer. At the ontbreak of the Civil War, John Richards enlisted, May, 1861, in Company K, 59th Regiment, New York Volunteers. Private Richards was wounded, August, 1862, at the battle of Bull Run, also at Antietam, September, 1862. He died August 26, 1889. It was while Private Richards was convalescent at the Chestnut Hill Hospital that he began sketching some of the old landmarks and buildings of Germantown. From these crude sketches he later made drawings on zinc plates, from which an impression could be taken by the lithographic process. Richard's drawings were more or less harsh and lacking in detail, especially where he attempted to introduce figures or animals often somewhat out of perspective. At the same time, considering the fact that he never had any instruction in art, these sketches have a merit and individuality of their own. Their chief value, however, consists in the fact that they have preserved to us and generations to come the views and landmarks of historic and quaint Germantown of days gone by.

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John Richards, after his discharge from the army, remained in Germantown, and was given the position of sexton of Calvary P. E. Church on Manheim Street; and during his spare time made many of the sketches aforesaid. Some of these views were printed many years ago by a local lithographer, and sold to residents and visitors. No attempt, however, was made to uniformity, or a proper description and location of the subjects. Some fifteen years ago, a number of these original zinc plates, together with impressions of some views previously issued, came into the possession of the present writer who, realizing their great historic value, for the present as well as future generations, has issued this edition. Thirty-three of these views are printed from the identical zinc plates made by John Richards; eight are reproductions of original sketches now first published; while the remainder are from transfers made of prints from the original plates.

The various views have been arranged and grouped according to their location: each side of the Main street has been taken separately, with a short legend, giving the present system of street numeration, so that the sites of these historic landmarks may be easily identified. This important feature was made possible by the researches and aid given to the writer by Messrs Edwin C. Jellett and Dr. Naaman H. Keyser of Germantown.

Julius F. Sachse

Philadelphia, February, 1913.

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QUAINT OLD GERMANTOWN—MAIN STREET—EAST SIDE.

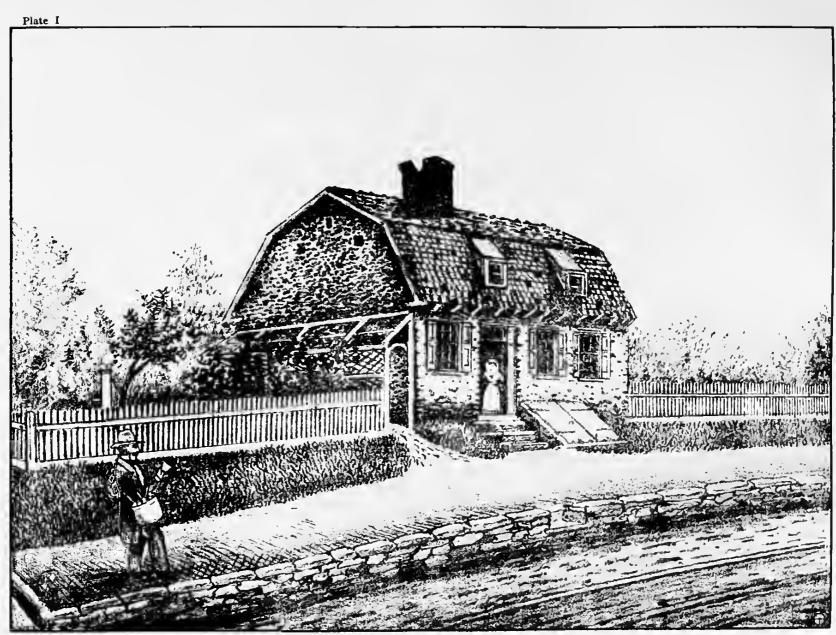
PLATE I.

The Dedier House,

FORMERLY AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF GERMANTOWN AVENUE AND FISHER'S LANE. SITE OF No. 4839. BUILT 1733.

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Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards

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QUAINT OLD GERMANTOWN—MAIN STREET—EAST SIDE.

PLATE II.

Germantown Avenue below Mechlin Street,

SHOWING THE MECHLIN-SORBER (ON SITE OF No. 4935), MCGUIRE (No. 4931), DEDIER (No. 4923-29) AND SHERMER HOUSE (No. 4921).

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QUAINT OLD GERMANTOWN-MAIN STREET-EAST SIDE.

PLATE III.

The Old Mechlin-Sorber House

(ON SITE OF No. 4935).

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Plate III

Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards

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QUAINT OLD GERMANTOWN-MAIN STREET-EAST SIDE.

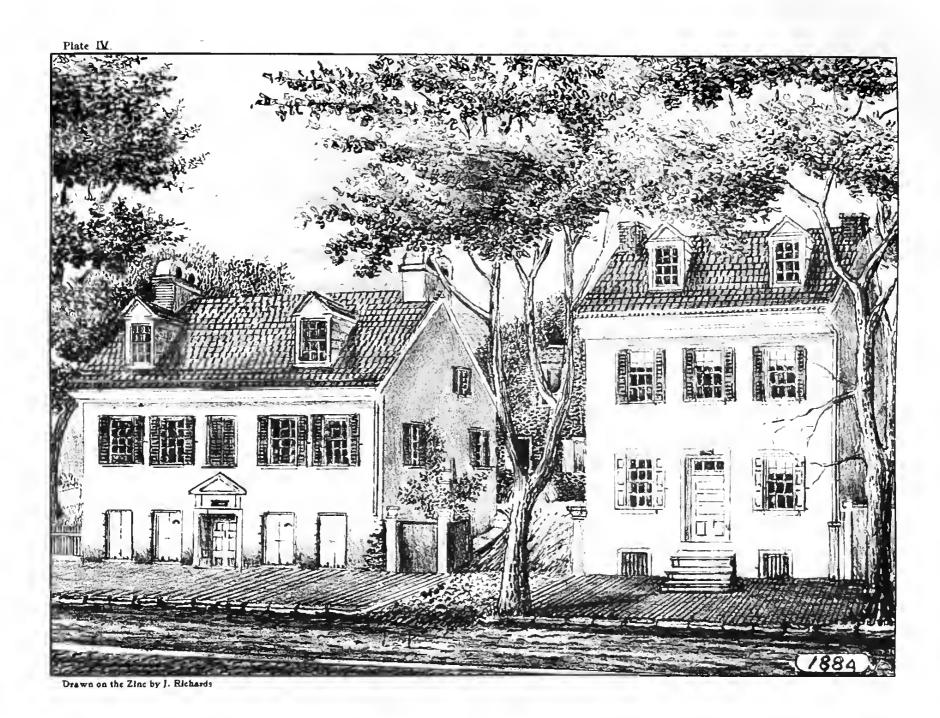
PLATE IV.

The Müller and Dannenhower Houses.

THE MÜLLER HOUSE, (SITE OF No. 4939).
DANNENHOWER HOUSE (SITE OF No. 4937). BUILT A. D. 1745.

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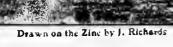
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QUAINT OLD GERMANTOWN-MAIN STREET-EAST SIDE.

PLATE V.

The Duy or George Royal's House

(ON SITE OF No. 5015-19).



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QUAINT OLD GERMANTOWN-MAIN STREET-EAST SIDE.

PLATE VI.

Site of Thones Kunder's House,

GERMANTOWN AVENUE OPPOSITE MANHEIM STREET. THONES KUNDER'S HOUSE OCCUPIED THE SITE OF THE BARBER SHOP (No. 5109). ONLY A PART OF THE OLD WALL REMAINS. THE FIRST FRIEND'S MEETING IN GERMANTOWN WAS HELD IN KUNDER'S HOUSE IN 1683.

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Drawn by J. Richards

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PLATE VII.

Christopher Sauer's House,

GERMANTOWN AVENUE OPPOSITE QUEEN LANE, SHOWING THE HOME OF CHRISTOPHER SAUER (1st), CHRISTOPHER SAUER (2nd). SITE OF No. 5253-55. ALSO CABINET AND CLOCK SHOP AND PRINTING OFFICE.

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Drawn on the Zine by J. Richards

PLATE VIII.

The Wister Homestead (Grumblethorpe).

(No. 5261), OPPOSITE QUEEN LANE, BUILT BY JOHANNES WÜSTER IN 1744. STILL STANDING.

Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards

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PLATE IX.

The Shoemaker House,

ON GERMANTOWN AVENUE CORNER OF SHOEMAKER'S LANE (PENN STREET) BUILT EARLY IN THE XVIII CENTURY. DEMOLISHED 1838-1840. SITE OCCUPIED BY Nos. 5301-5313. "COTTAGE ROW."

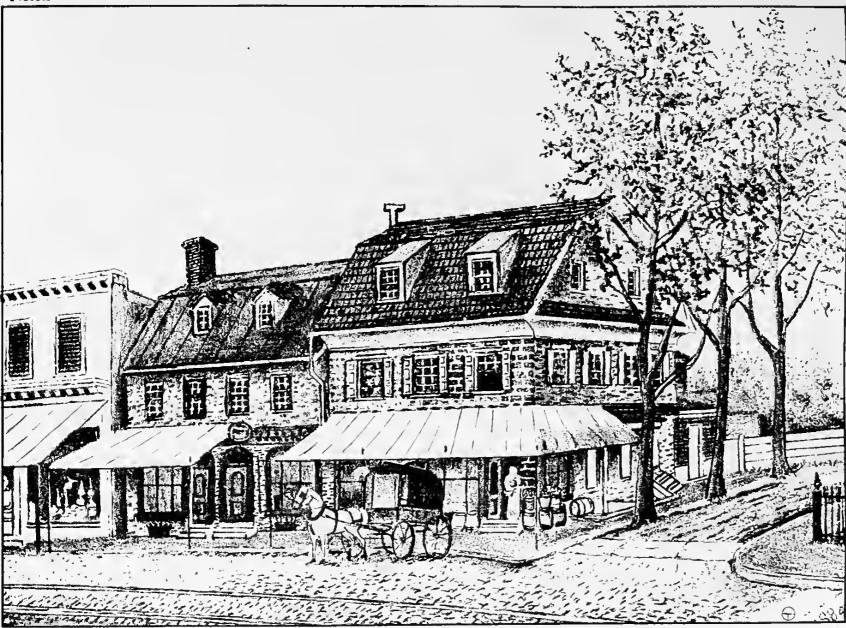
Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards

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PLATE X.

The De la Plaine House,

AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF GERMANTOWN AVENUE AND SCHOOL LANE. BUILT EARLY IN THE XVIII CENTURY. DEMOLISHED 1885. SITE NOW OCCUPIED BY THE MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY OF GERMANTOWN. GEORGE WHITEFIELD PREACHED FROM THE BALCONY.



Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards

PLATE XI.

The Old Log Prison of Germantown,

FROM SKETCH SAID TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN 1702. THIS ORIGINALLY STOOD IN MARKET SQUARE.

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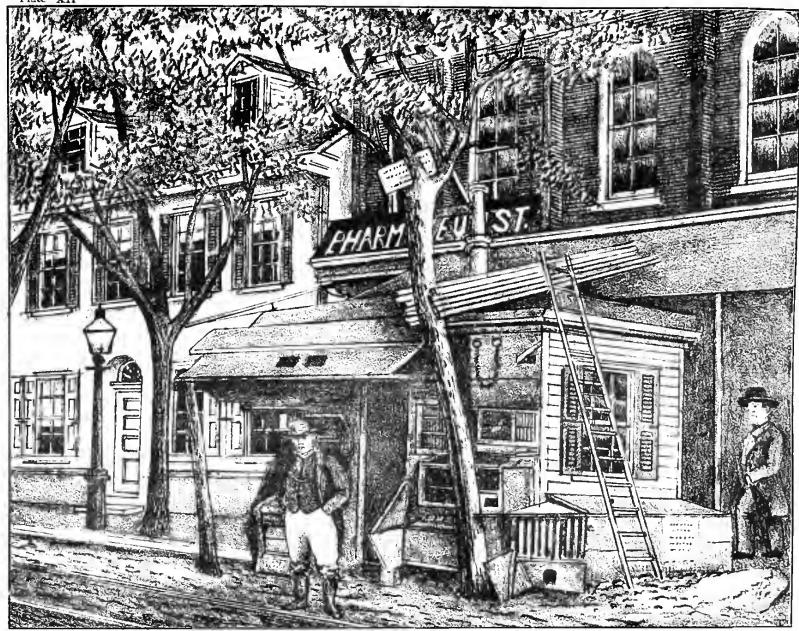
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PLATE XII.

The Old Toll Booth,

ON THE GERMANTOWN TURNPIKE, WHICH IN 1874 STOOD OPPOSITE RITTENHOUSE STREET—KNOWN AS "ENOS SPRINGER'S" TOLL GATE. HE WAS THE LAST KEEPER, AND IS SHOWN IN CENTER OF PICTURE.





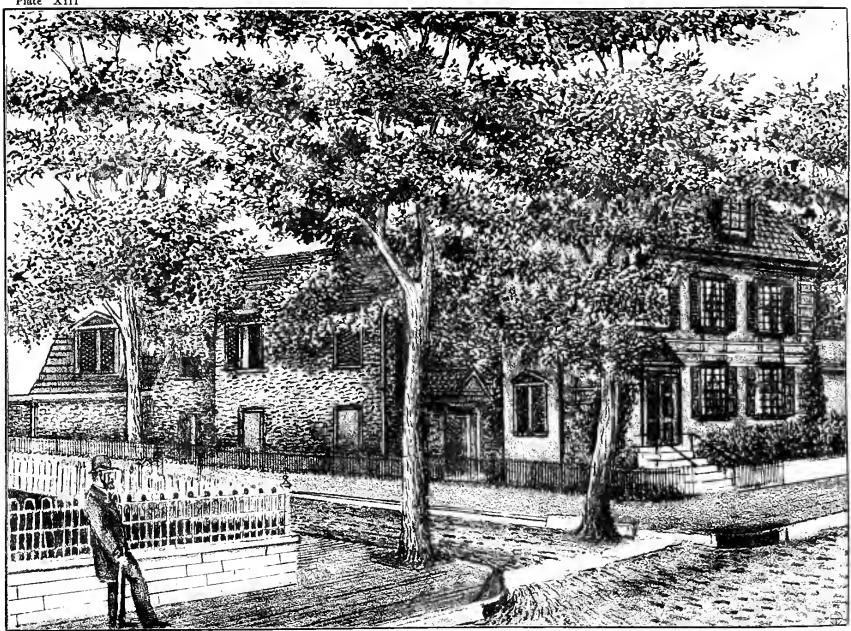
Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards

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PLATE XIII.

The Morris-Littell House,

AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF GERMANTOWN AVENUE AND HIGH STREET. BUILT ON THE SITE OF THE HOME OF DR. CHRISTOPHER WITT AND DANIEL GEISSLER.



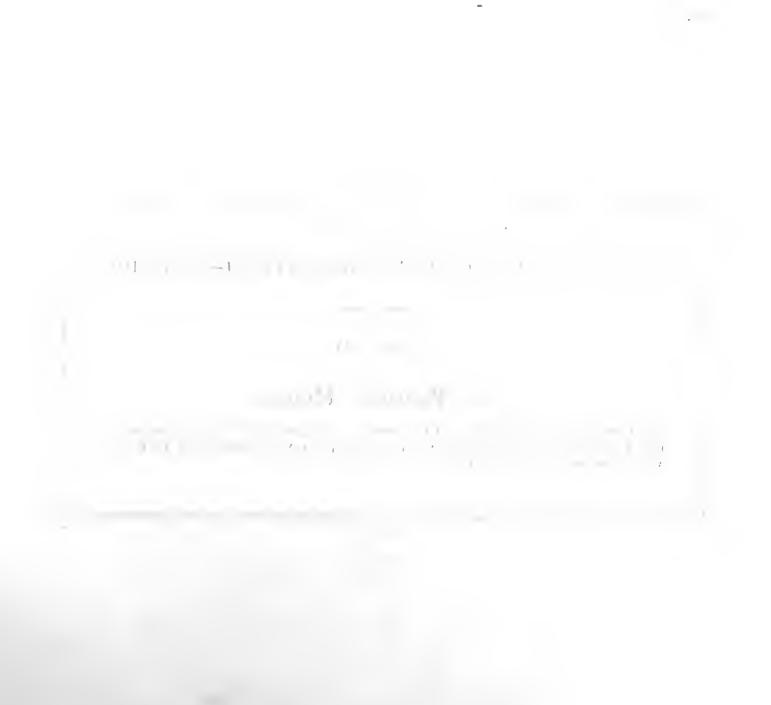
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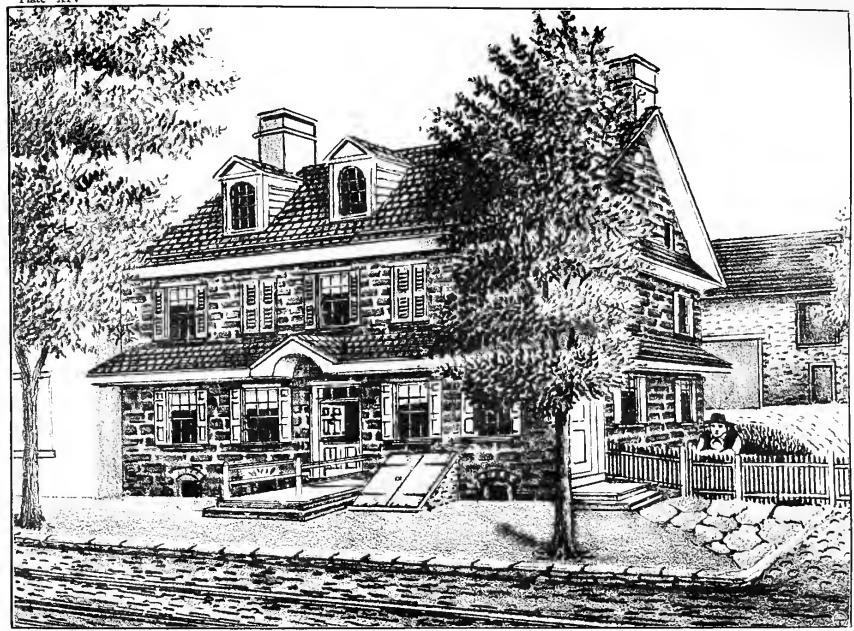
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PLATE XIV.

The Pastorius House,

BUILT BY DANIEL PASTORIUS IN 1748. (NOW No. 6019), FORMERLY USED AS A PUBLIC HOUSE AND KNOWN SUCCESSIVELY AS "THE SADLER'S ARMS," "THE GREEN TREE INN" AND "THE WIDOW MACKINET'S."





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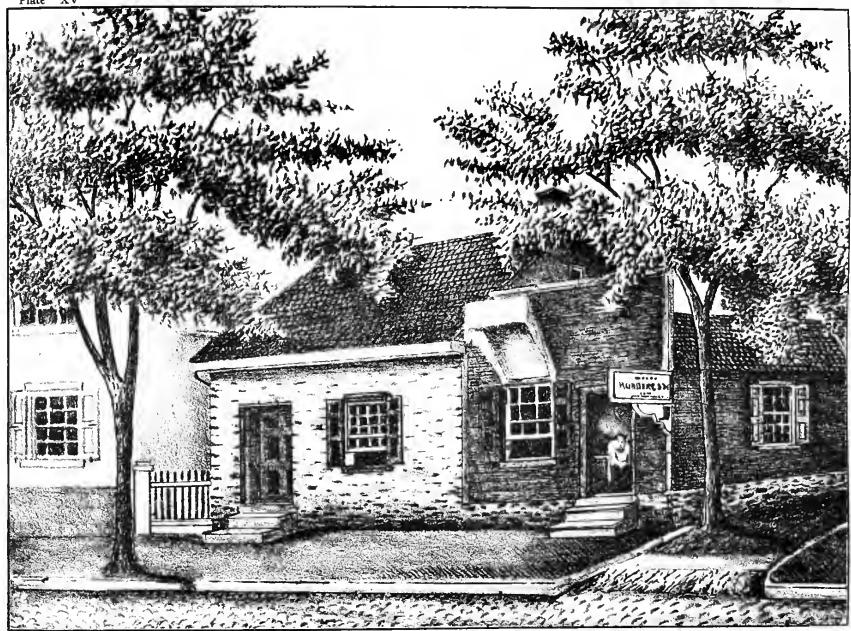


PLATE XV.

Dr. Deaver's House and First Post-Office,

GERMANTOWN AVENUE BELOW WALNUT LANE. DR. DEAVER'S (No. 6033) HOUSE AND AN OLD BUILDING ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN USED BY DR. WITT AND THE FIRST GERMANTOWN POST-OFFICE (No. 6027)

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Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards

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PLATE XVI.

The Mennonite Church and Samuel Keyser's,

BUILT A. D. 1770 (No. 6121-31), AND THE SAMUEL KEYSER HOUSE WITH ITS OLD PUMP (SITE OF No. 6133-35). DEMOLISHED ABOUT 1871.

Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards

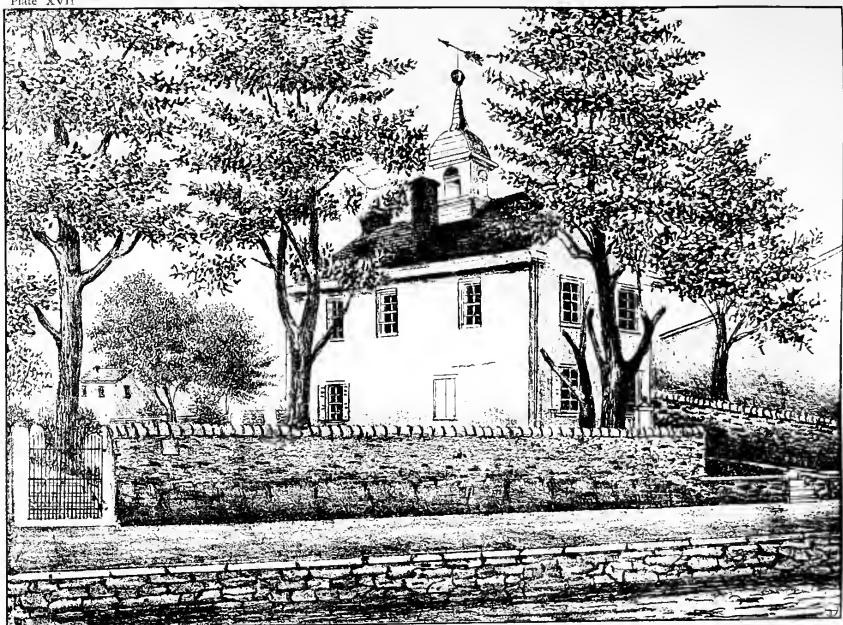
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PLATE XVII.

The Concord School-House,

(No. 6309) BUILT A D. 1775. THE GRAVEYARD ADJOINING IT IS KNOWN AS THE "UPPER OR AXE'S" BURYING GROUND. THE BURIAL PLACE OF MANY OF THE OLDEST SETTLERS OF GERMANTOWN.





Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards

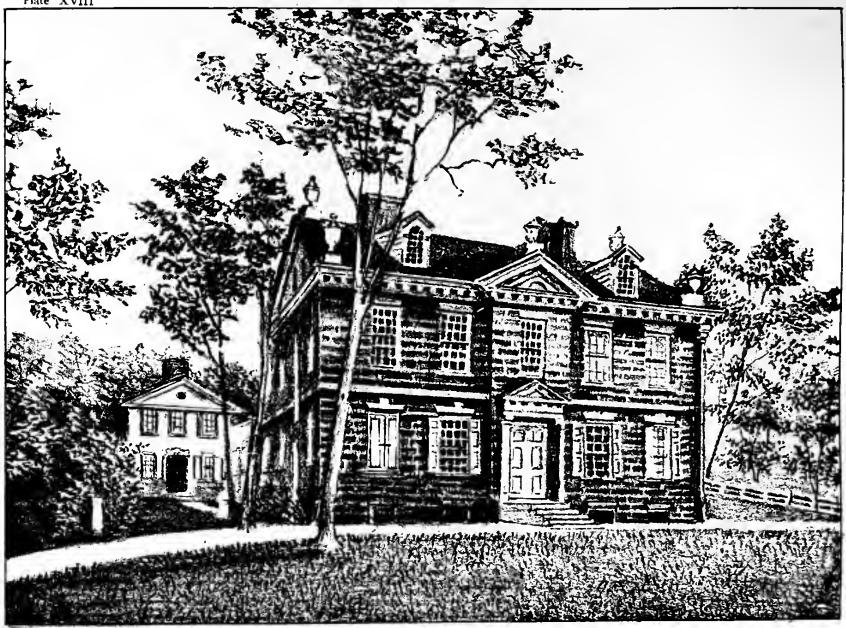
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PLATE XVIII.

The Historic "Chew" Mansion---"Cliveden."

IT WAS AROUND THIS HOUSE THAT THE BATTLE OF GERMANTOWN SURGED OCTOBER 4, 1777.

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Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards



PLATE XIX.

The Dunker Meeting House,

GERMANTOWN AVENUE AND SHARPNACK STREET, (No. 6617). BUILT A. D. 1770.

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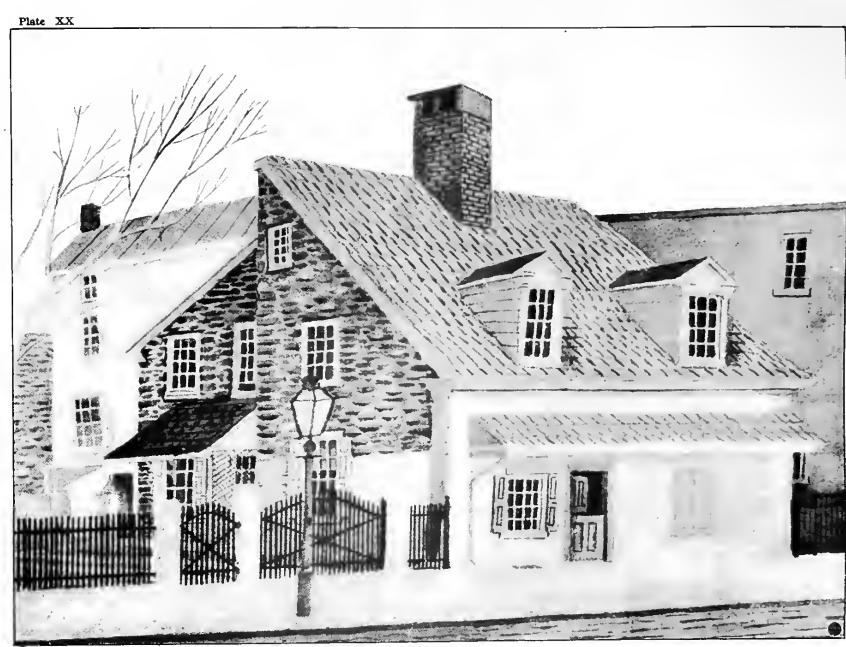
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PLATE XX.

The Old Dunker Parsonage,

GERMANTOWN AVENUE AND SHARPNACK STREET, ADJOINING THE CHURCH (SITE OF No. 6613). IT WAS BUILT OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO. DEMOLISHED IN 1907.



Drawn by J. Richards

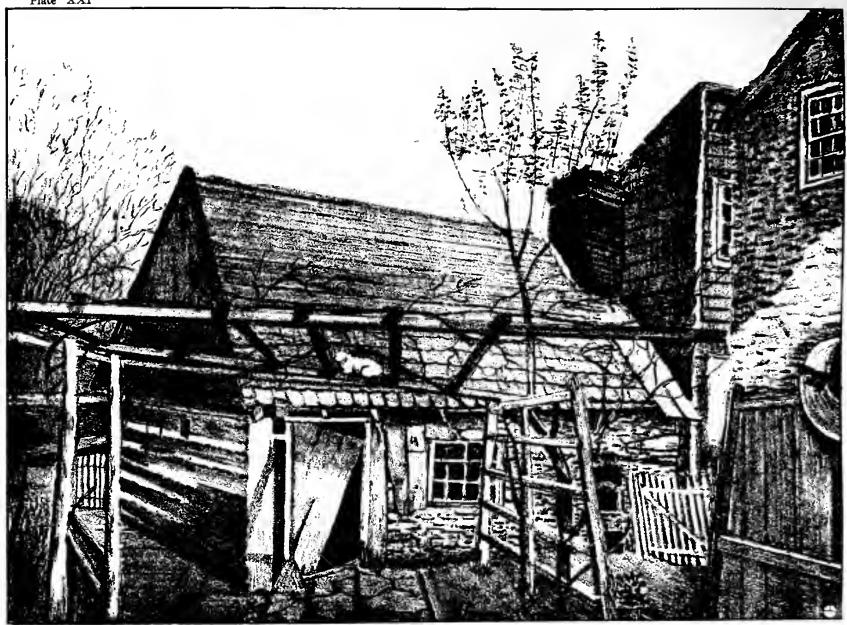
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PLATE XXI.

The Old Weaver House,

(SITE OF No. 6611). BUILT ABOUT 1731, FOR THE USE OF ALEXANDER MACK, THE FOUNDER OF THE GERMAN BRETHREN OR DUNKERS. AFTER HIS DEATH IT CAME INTO POSSESSION OF HIS SON, JOHANNES MACK, A STOCKING WEAVER—HENCE THE NAME.





Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards

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PLATE XXII.

The Old Log Cabin,

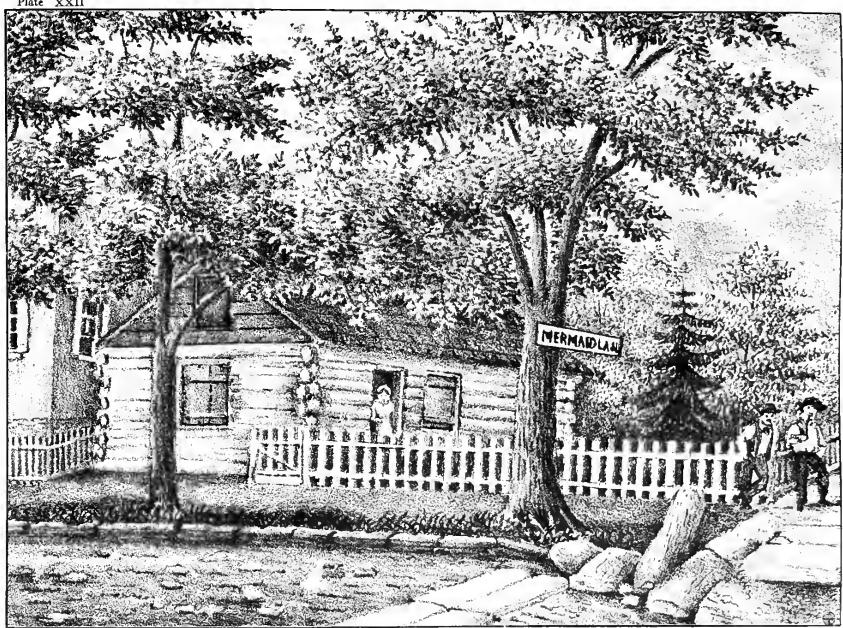
NORTHEAST CORNER OF GERMANTOWN AVENUE AND MERMAID LANE. THE ORIGINAL HOME OF THE HEYDRICK FAMILY. DEMOLISHED 1909.

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The Old Log Cabin,

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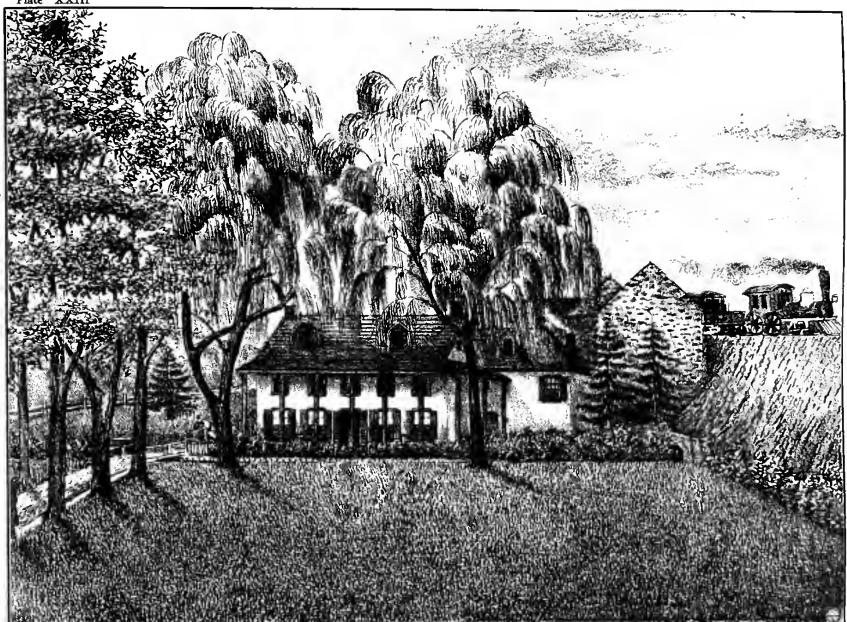
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PLATE XXIII.

The Roberts Mansion "Willow Glen,"

FORMERLY ON THE WEST SIDE OF GERMANTOWN AVENUE SOUTH OF THE RAILROAD STATION AT WAYNE JUNCTION. NOT KNOWN WHEN BUILT. DEMOLISHED 1902. REAR OF No. 4450.

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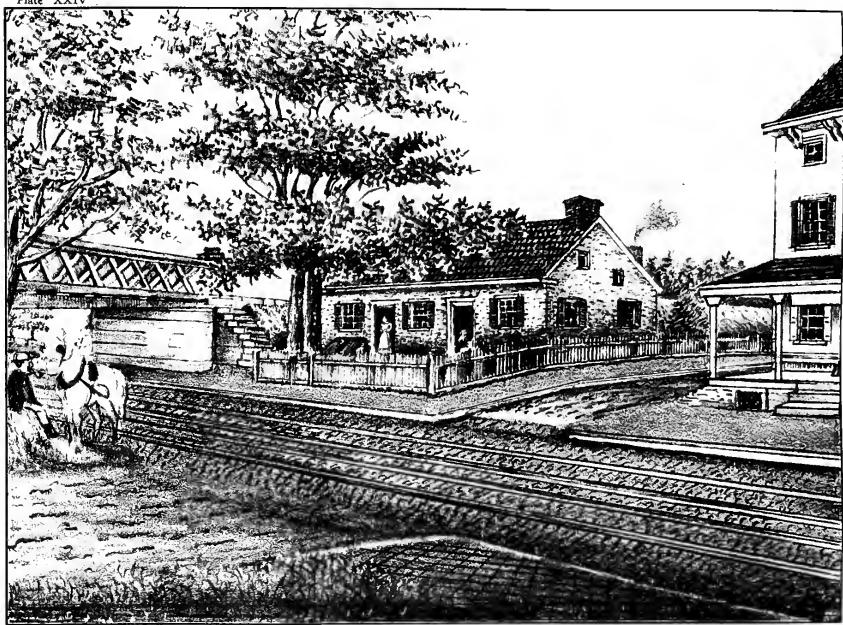
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PLATE XXIV.

The Old Naglee House

WEST SIDE OF GERMANTOWN AVENUE (Nos. 4518-4520). ONE OF THE OLDEST BUILDINGS IN GERMANTOWN. BUILT LATE IN THE XVII OR EARLY IN THE XVIII CENTURY.

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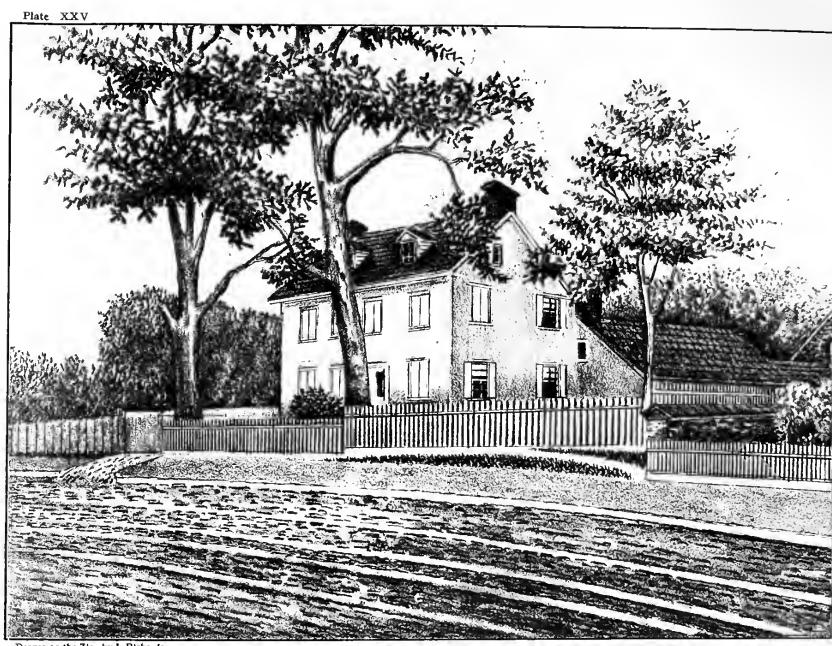
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PLATE XXV.

The Mechlin-Wagner House

(No. 4840), BUILT A. D. 1747. USED AS A HOSPITAL BY THE BRITISH AFTER THE BATTLE, OCTOBER 4, 1777.



Drawn on the Zine by J. Richards

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PLATE XXVI.

Rear of the Mechlin-Wagner Property

SHOWING THE BARN DOORS USED BY THE BRITISH FOR OPERATING TABLES AFTER THE BATTLE OF GERMANTOWN.





Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards

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PLATE XXVII.

Old Houses at the Corner of Manheim Street

IN 1866. SITE OF No. 5100.

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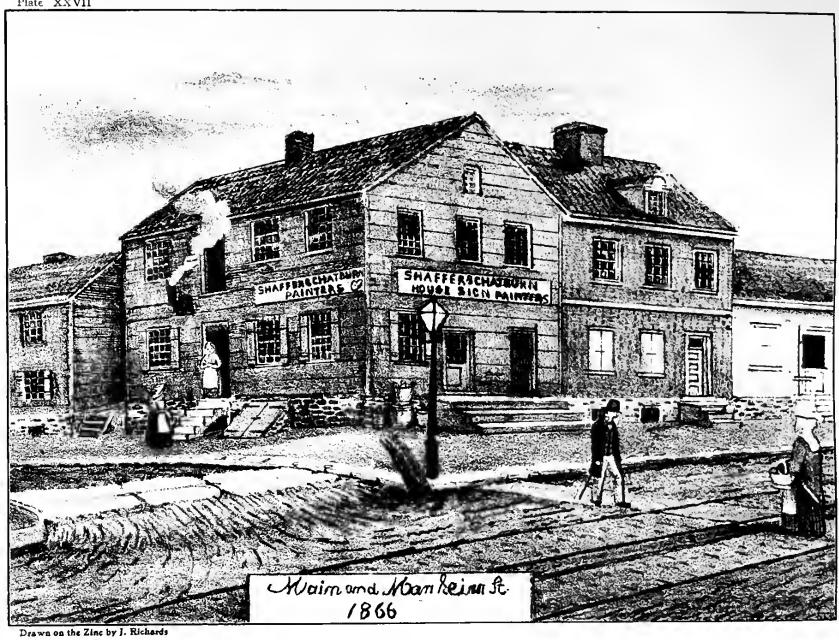




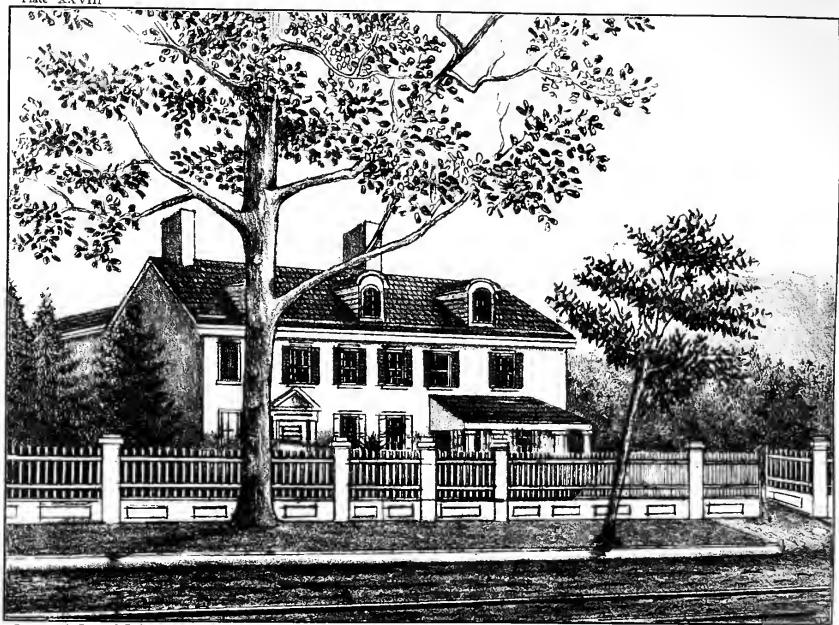
PLATE XXVIII.

Historic Roebuck Inn,

(No. 5122) BUILT BY JOSEPH SHIPPEN ABOUT 1716. FIRST KNOWN AS THE SHIPPEN HOUSE, LATER AS THE "ROEBUCK" AND BECAME A NOTED COLONIAL INN. IN LATER YEARS IT CAME INTO POSSESSION OF THE HEFT FAMILY, WHO FOR YEARS KEPT IT AS THE "BUTTONWOOD" TAVERN. LOCALLY IT WAS KNOWN AS "HEFT'S."



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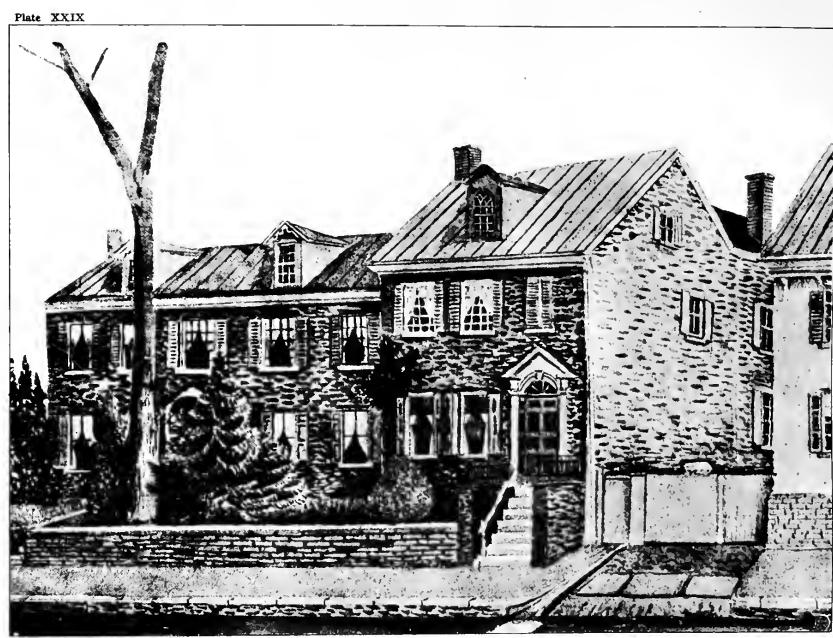
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PLATE XXIX.

Main Street opposite Bringhurst

SHOWING THE D. H. CONYNGHAM HOUSE (No. 5214) BUILT ABOUT 1780. LATER OCCUPIED FOR MANY YEARS BY ISAIAH HACKER, ALSO THE HOWELL HOUSE (No. 5218).





Drawn by J. Richards

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PLATE XXX.

The Old (Van Lauchet) Weygandt House

(SITE OF Nos. 5230-5232) AND "KALCKGLASER HOUSE" (SITE OF Nos. 5234-5236).





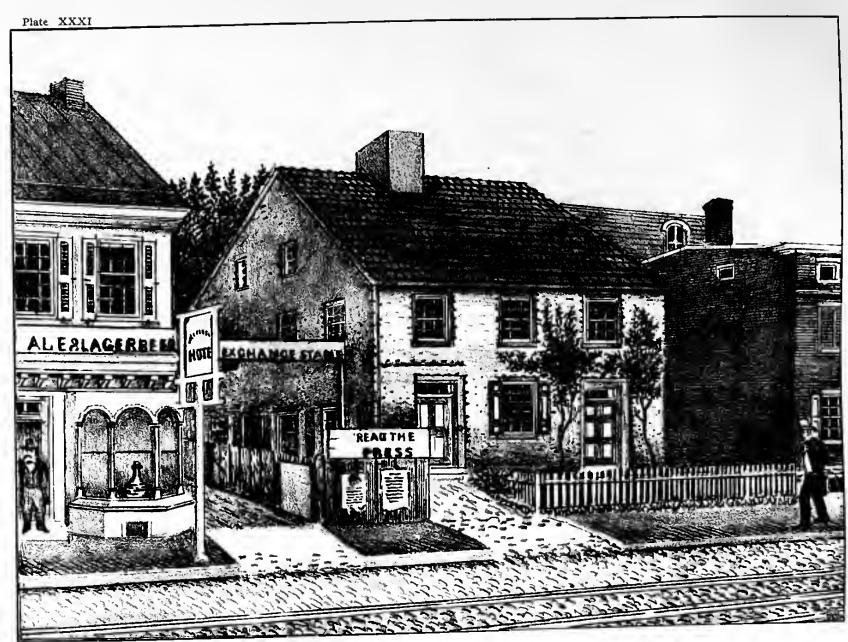
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PLATE XXXI.

Germantown Avenue, above Penn Street

SHOWING JOHN MUSHLER'S BAKERY (No. 5338).



Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards



PLATE XXXII.

Christopher Bockius' House

CORNER OF MAIN AND COULTER STREETS (No. 5400).

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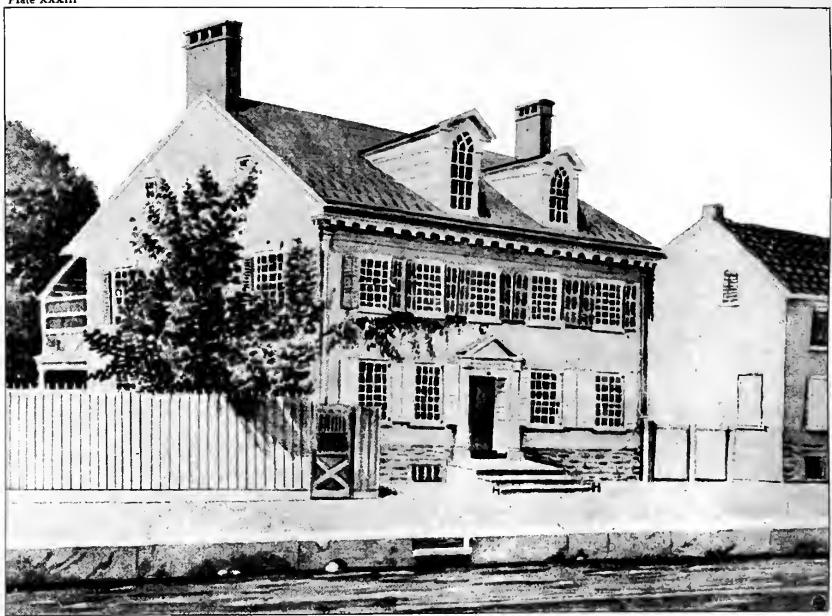
Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards



PLATE XXXIII.

The Morris-Deshler House

GERMANTOWN AVENUE OPPOSITE CHURCH LANE (No. 5442). BUILT A. D. 1772. OCCUPIED UPON TWO OCCASIONS BY GENERAL WASHINGTON WHILE PRESIDENT.



Drawn by J. Richards



PLATE XXXIV.

Market Square or "The Green,"

ON THE EAST SIDE SHOWING THE WEST SIDE OF GERMANTOWN AVENUE, WITH THE HOUSES OF THE ASHMEADS AND BENZELLS, GOVERNOR MIFFLIN LIVED IN THE THREE STORY HOUSE. THE HIP ROOF HOUSE IS THE "KING OF PRUSSIA" INN WHERE JEFFERSON AND MADISON LODGED. THE MARKET HOUSE WAS BUILT 1741. THE FIRE ENGINE SHELTER IN 1819.



Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards

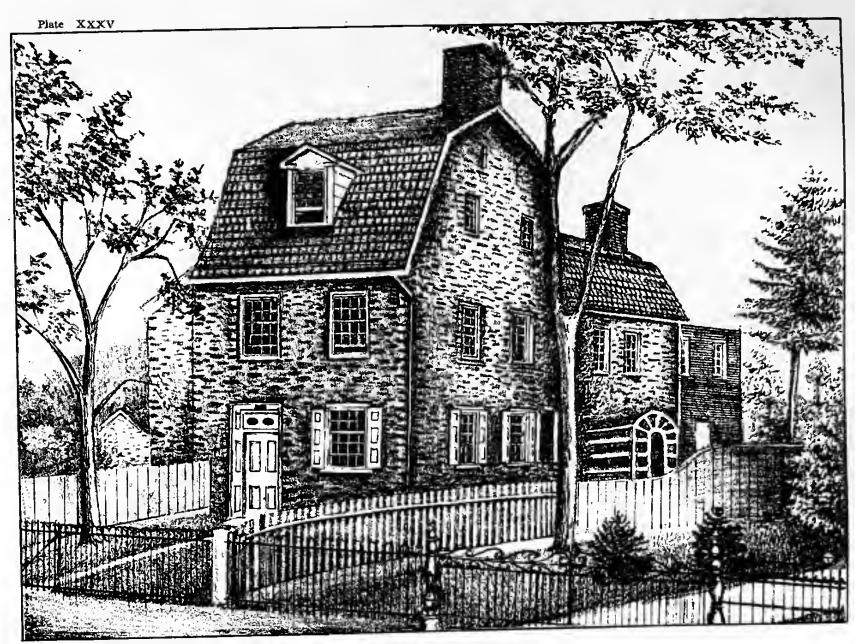


PLATE XXXV.

The Home of Christian Lehman

(No. 5524) THE STUDENT OF DR. CHRISTOPHER WITT.





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PLATE XXXVI.

The Home of Wyndham H. Stokes

FORMERLY ON GERMANTOWN AVENUE ABOVE MAPLEWOOD. (ON SITE OF Nos. 5600-12).

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Drawn by J. Richards

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PLATE XXXVII.

"Rose Cottage"

HOME OF SAMUEL HARVEY (No. 5930) REPLACED BY THE TOWN HALL.



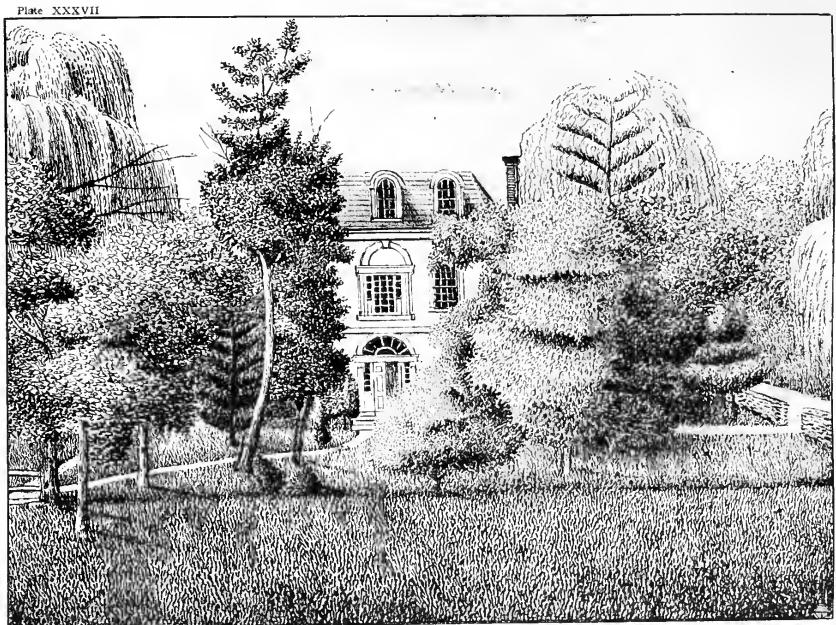
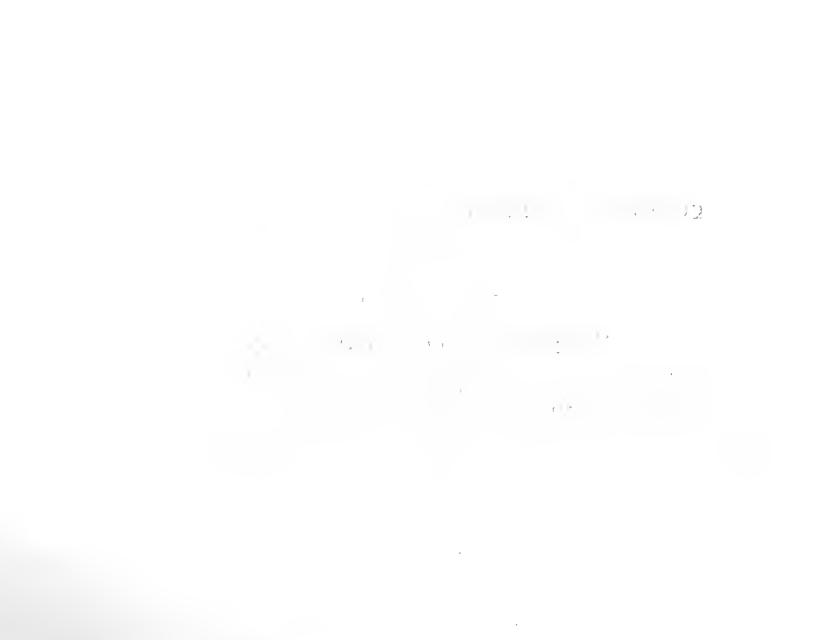


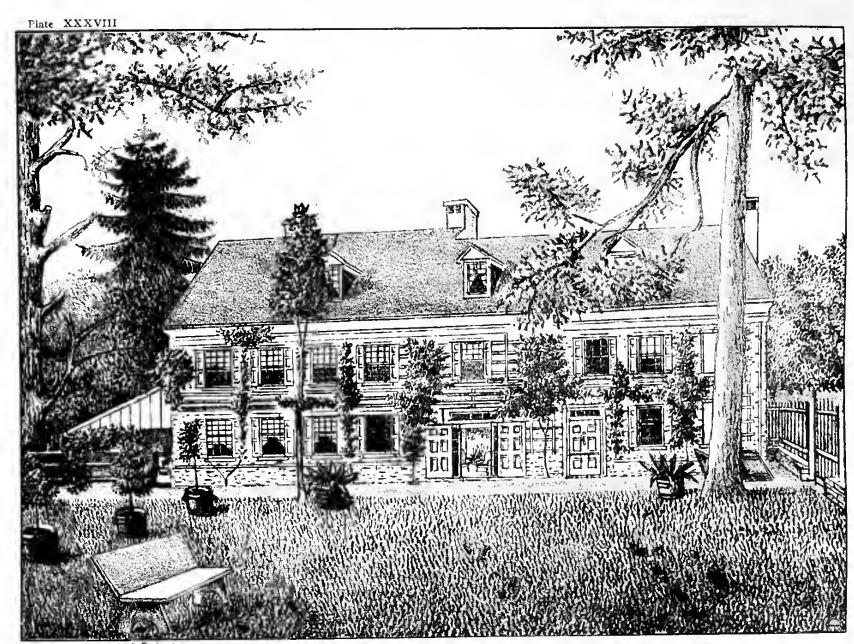


PLATE XXXVIII.

"Wyck," or the Haines House,

(No. 6026) AT THE CORNER OF WALNUT LANE. THE WEST END, THE OLDEST HOUSE IN GERMANTOWN WAS BUILT BY HANS MILAN ABOUT 1690. IT WAS USED AS A HOSPITAL IN 1777. THIS PROPERTY HAS NEVER BEEN OUT OF THE FAMILY.





Drawn on the Zine by J. Richards

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PLATE XXXIX.

The Johnson Homestead

GERMANTOWN AVENUE AND WASHINGTON LANE. BUILT A. D. 1760.

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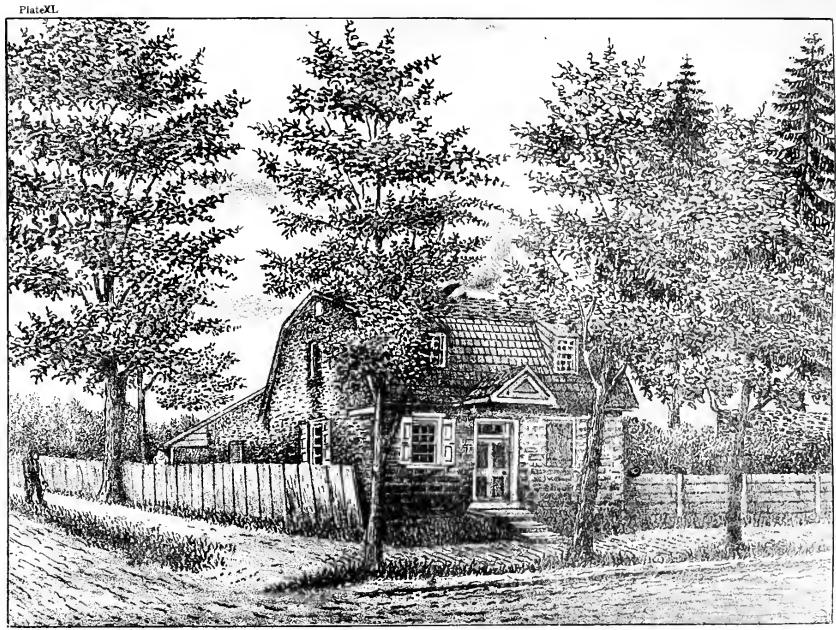
PLATE XL.

The Old Johnson House

FORMERLY AT NORTHWEST CORNER OF GERMANTOWN AVENUE AND JOHNSON STREET. BUILT BY HEIVERT PAPEN IN 1698. DEMOLISHED IN 1883.

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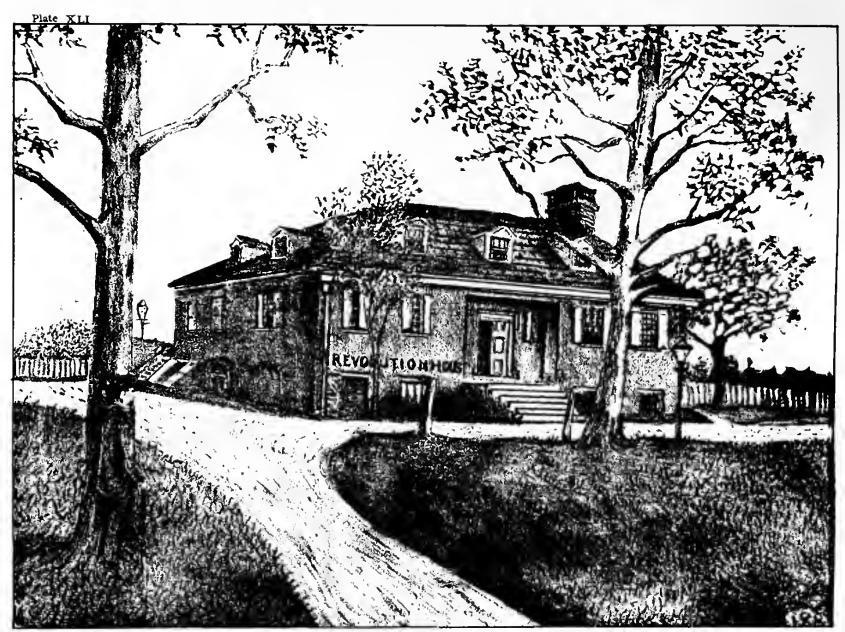
QUAINT OLD GERMANTOWN-FAIR HILL.

PLATE XLI.

"Fair Hill"

THE HOME OF THE NORRIS FAMILY. BUILT BY ISAAC NORRIS (3RD) ABOUT 1800, REPLACING THE ORIGINAL HOUSE BUILT 1717, AND BURNED BY THE BRITISH AFTER THE BATTLE OF GERMANTOWN IN 1777. WHEREIN JOHN DICKINSON WROTE HIS CELEBRATED "FARMER'S LETTERS."





Drawn on the Zine by J. Richards



QUAINT OLD GERMANTOWN—FAIR HILL.

PLATE XLII.

"Fair Hill," Friends' Meeting

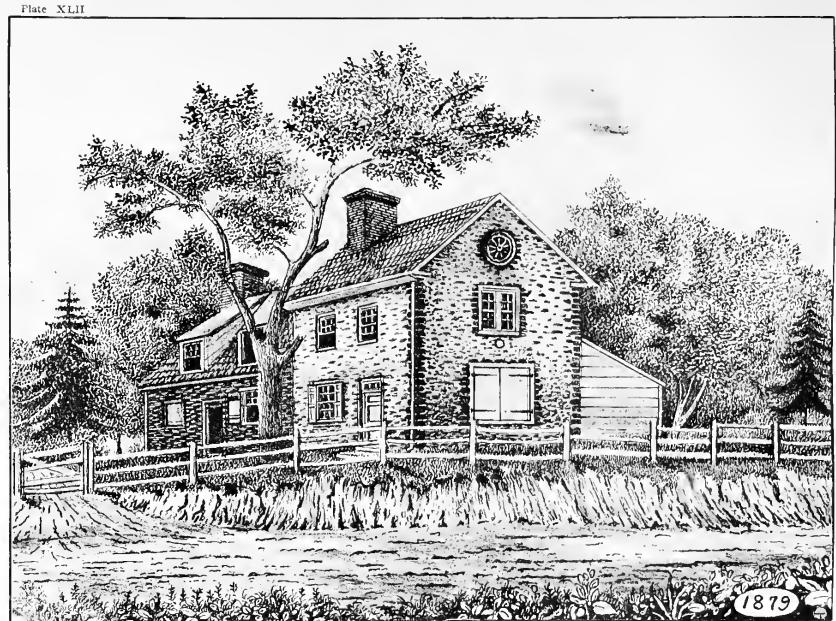
BUILT A. D. 1706-07. REMOVED ABOUT THE YEAR 1883. LUCRETIA MOTT IS BURIED IN THE ADJOINING GROUND.

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Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards



QUAINT OLD GERMANTOWN—FAIR HILL.

PLATE XLIII.

The Foxchase Tavern

NEAR FAIR HILL, AT THREE MILE RUN. SITE OF SOUTHEAST CORNER OF GERMANTOWN ROAD AND GLENWOOD AVENUE. REMOVED ABOUT 1868.

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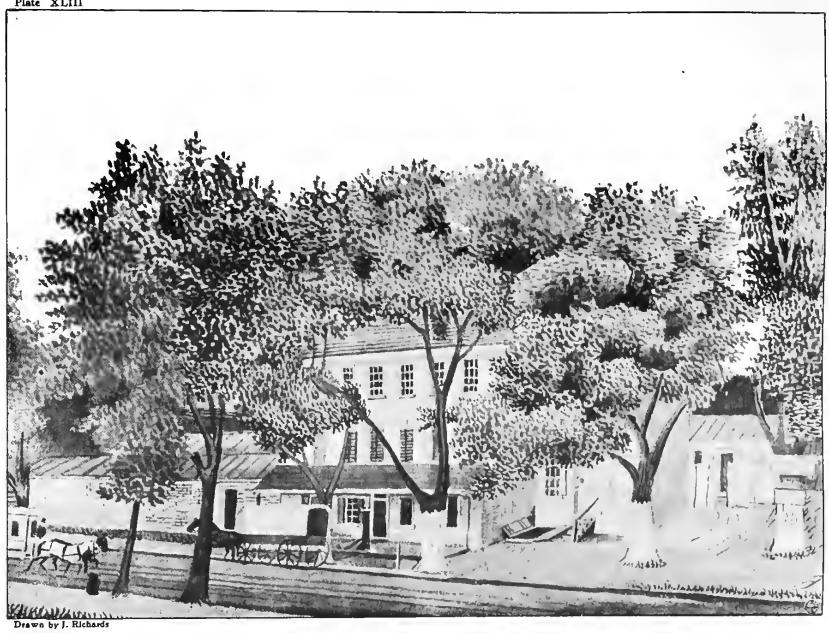


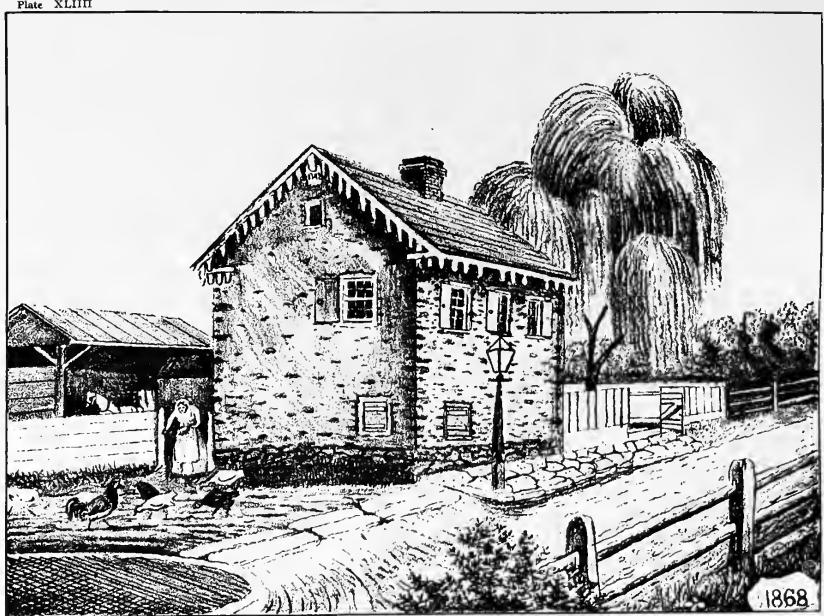


PLATE XLIV.

"Castle of Rosenheim"

FORMERLY AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF WAKEFIELD STREET AND FISHER'S LANE. BUILT BY JOHANNES WUSTER A. D. 1743.

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PLATE XLV.

Wakefield or Fisher's Mills

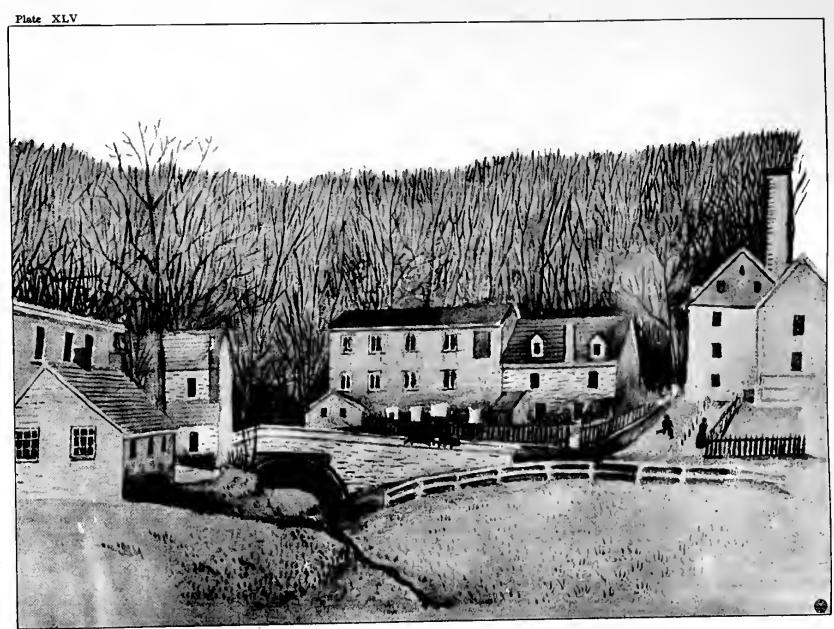
BUILT ABOUT 1755 BY WILLIAM LOGAN FISHER. THE OLD REVOLUTIONARY POWDER MILL IS ALSO SHOWN.

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Drawn by J. Richards



PLATE XLVI.

Harper's Hollow

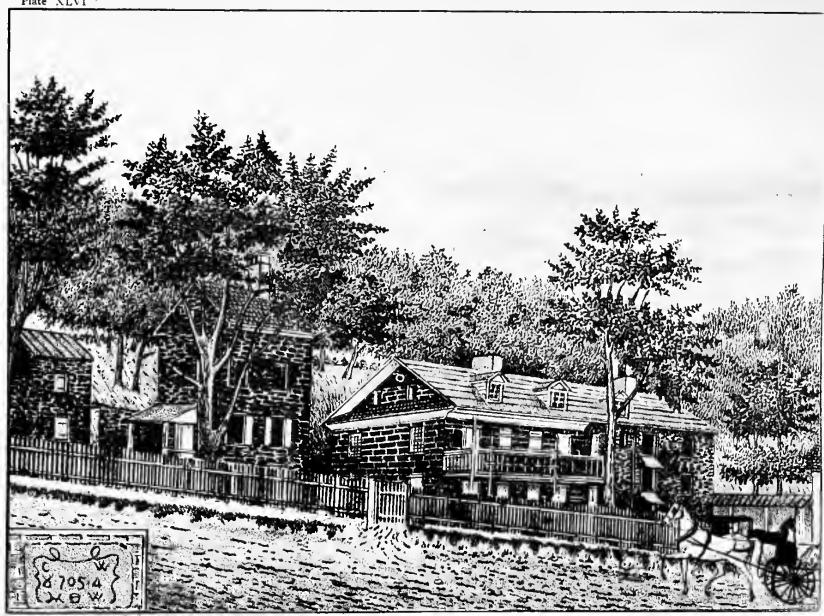
SITE OF THE WEBER AND THORP MILLS ON THORP'S LANE, NEAR OLD YORK ROAD.

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Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards



PLATE XLVII.

John Brigg's House

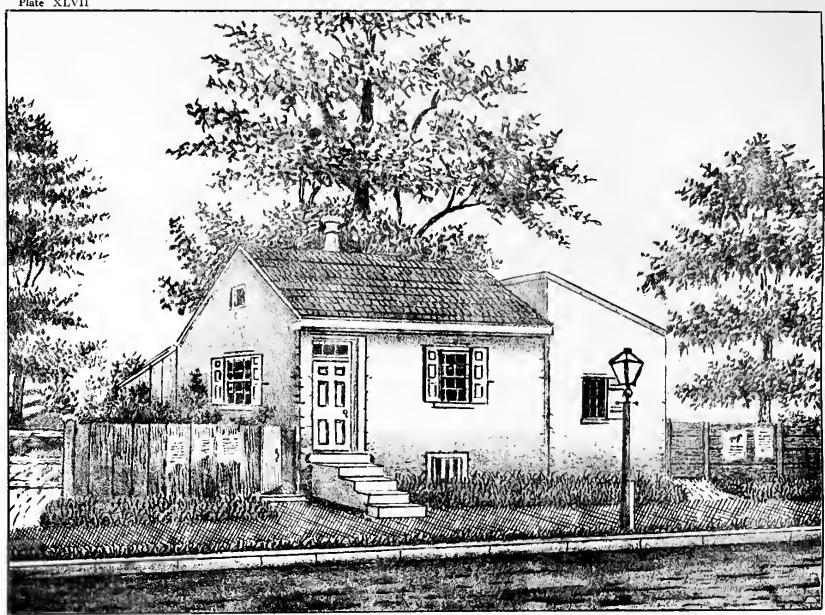
SOUTH SIDE OF QUEEN LANE, IMMEDIATELY WEST OF WAYNE AVENUE.

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Drawn on the Zine by J. Richards



PLATE XLVIII.

The Old Tillman House

ON QUEEN LANE JUST WEST OF THE BRIGG'S HOUSE.

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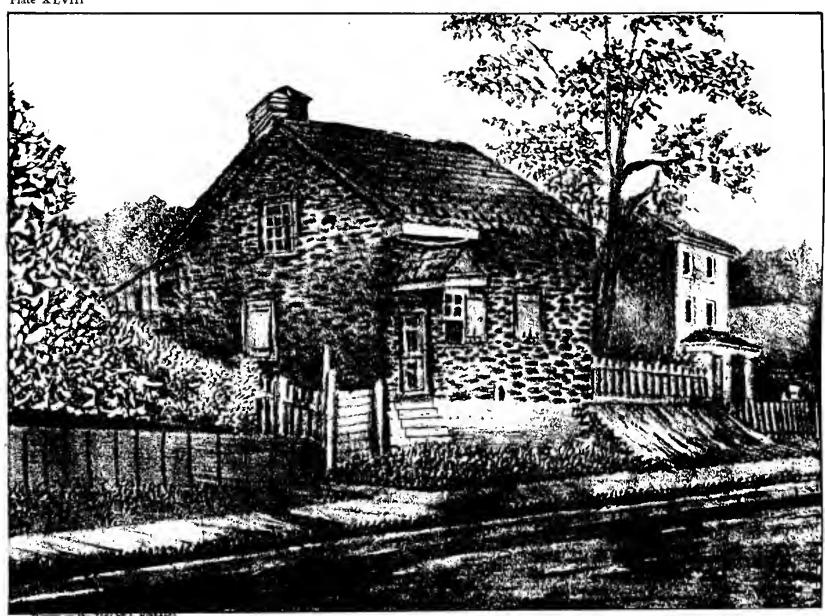


PLATE XLIX.

The Coulter Farm House

AT NORTHEAST CORNER OF WISSAHICKON AVENUE AND INDIAN QUEEN LANE. QUEEN LANE STATION OF THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD IS NOW ON THE GROUNDS.

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Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards



PLATE L.

The Rock House

ON THE NORTH SIDE OF EAST PENN STREET, JUST EAST OF THE READING R. R. BRIDGE. BUILT ABOUT 1690. THE HOUSE IN WHICH IT IS SAID THAT WILLIAM PENN PREACHED.

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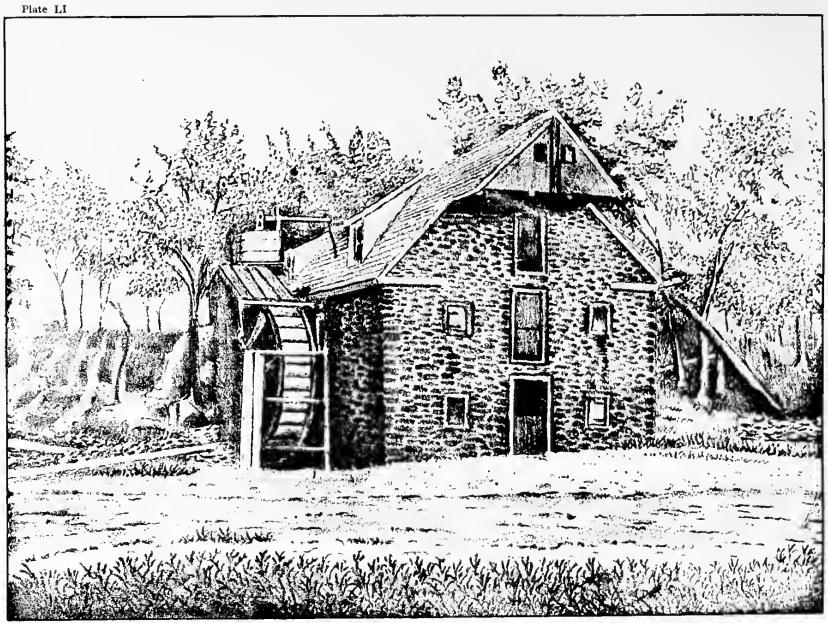
Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards

PLATE LI.

Roberts Mill

ON THE NORTH SIDE OF CHURCH LANE, EAST OF STENTON AVENUE, BUILT 1683. REMOVED ABOUT 1873. THE SECOND MILL IN PHILADELPHIA COUNTY BUILT (THE YEAR WHEN GERMANTOWN WAS LAID OUT) BY RICHARD TOWNSEND.





Drawn on the Zine by J. Richards



PLATE LII.

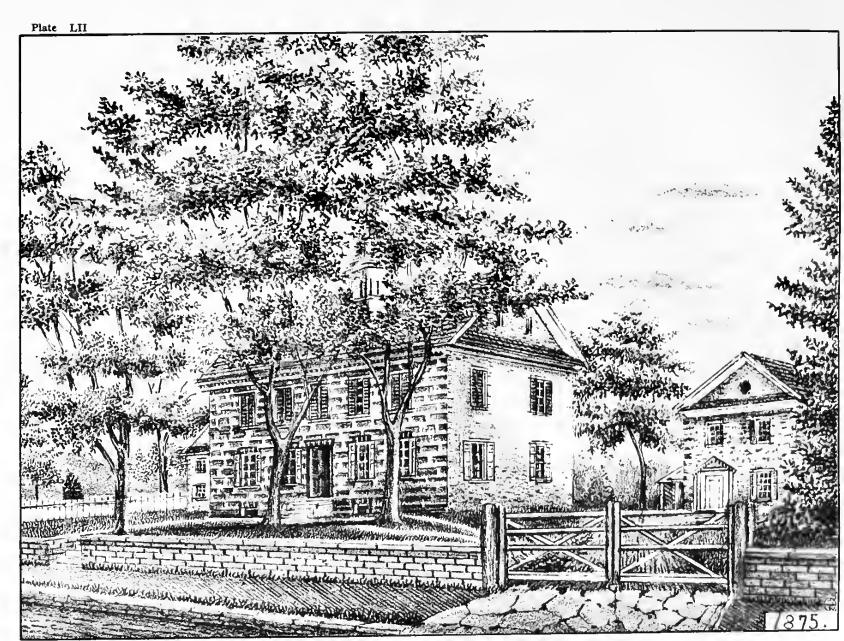
The Germantown Academy

ON SOUTHWEST CORNER OF GREENE STREET AND SCHOOL HOUSE LANE. BUILT A. D. 1760-61. FAR FAMED FOR MANY OF ITS TEACHERS AND PUPILS.

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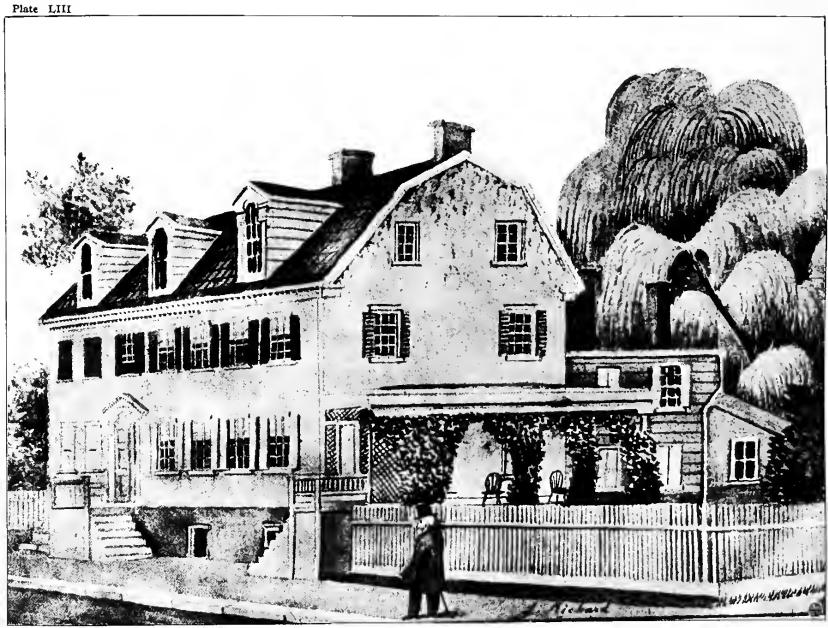
PLATE LIII.

James Matthew's House

WHERE DAVID JAMES DOVE KEPT SCHOOL. PURCHASED BY THE GERMANTOWN ACADEMY IN 1810 FOR THE USE OF THE HEAD-MASTER.

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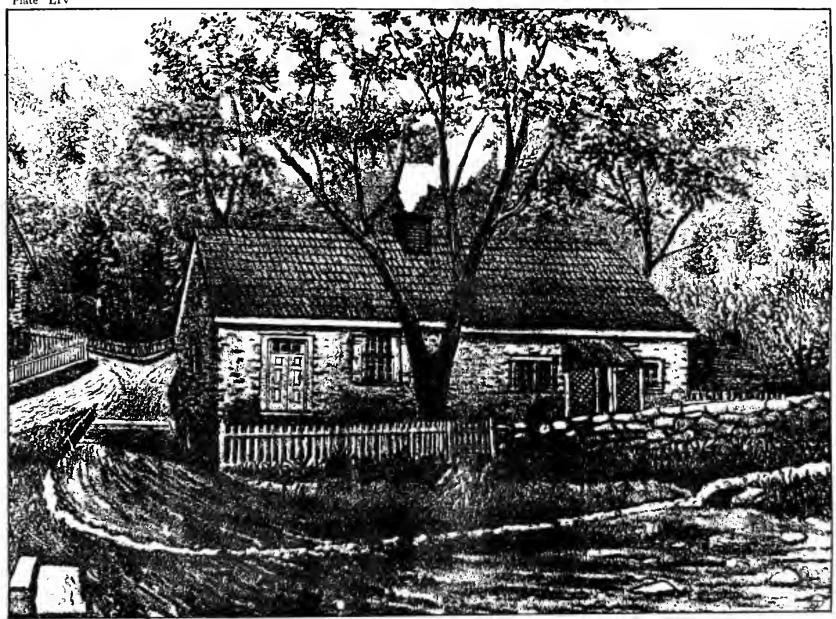


PLATE LIV.

Birthplace of David Rittenhouse

SHOWING THE SITE OF THE RITTENHOUSE PAPER MILL (BUILT 1708) ON LINCOLN DRIVE, WEST OF WISSAHICKON AVENUE, FAIRMOUNT PARK.

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PLATE LV.

The "Unruh" Homestead

SOUTH OF GORGAS LANE, WEST OF READING RAILROAD. BUILT A. D. 1701.

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PLATE LVI.

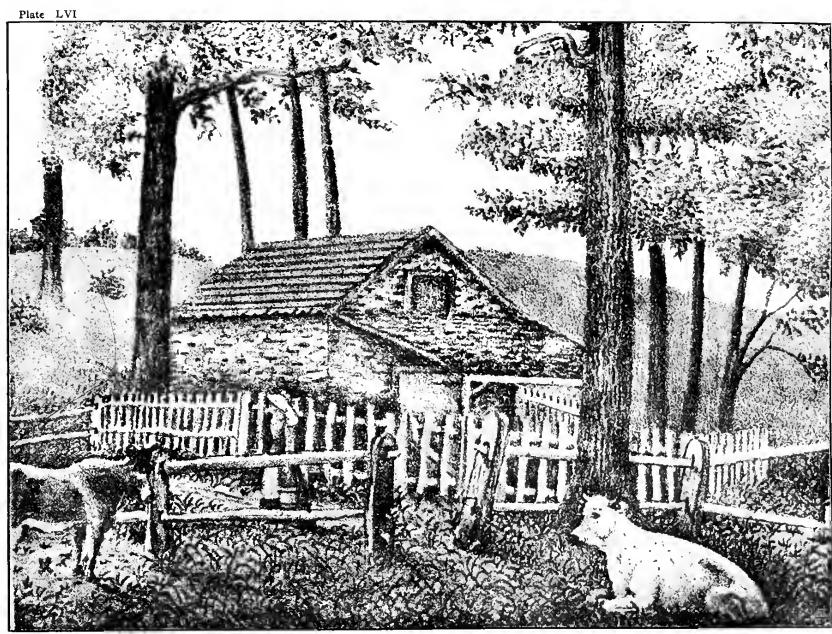
The Old Spring House

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PLATE LVII.

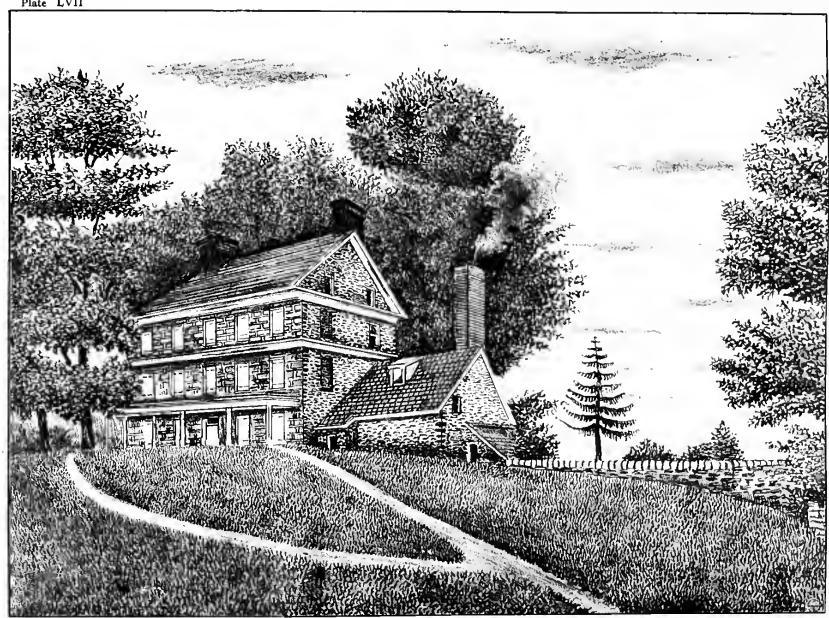
The "Monastery" on the Wissahickon

BUILT 1746-47 BY JOSEPH GORGAS. (VIDE SACHSE'S GERMAN SECTARIANS VOL. 1. P. 274, ET SEQ.).

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PLATE LVIII.

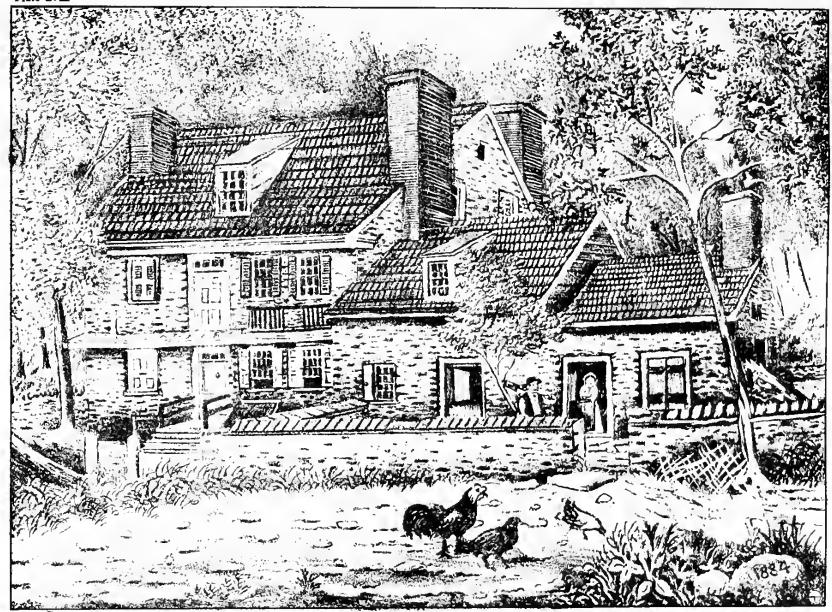
Glen Fern, or Livezey Mansion

ON THE WISSAHICKON CREEK AT THE FOOT OF LIVEZEY'S LANE. BUILT ABOUT 1745. THE SCENE OF STIRRING EVENTS IN PETERSON'S "PEMBERTON."

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Drawn on the Zinc by J. Richards

PLATE LIX.

The Red Lion Tavern

ON THE BRISTOL TURNPIKE, ABOVE HOLMESBURG. BUILT A. D. 1750.

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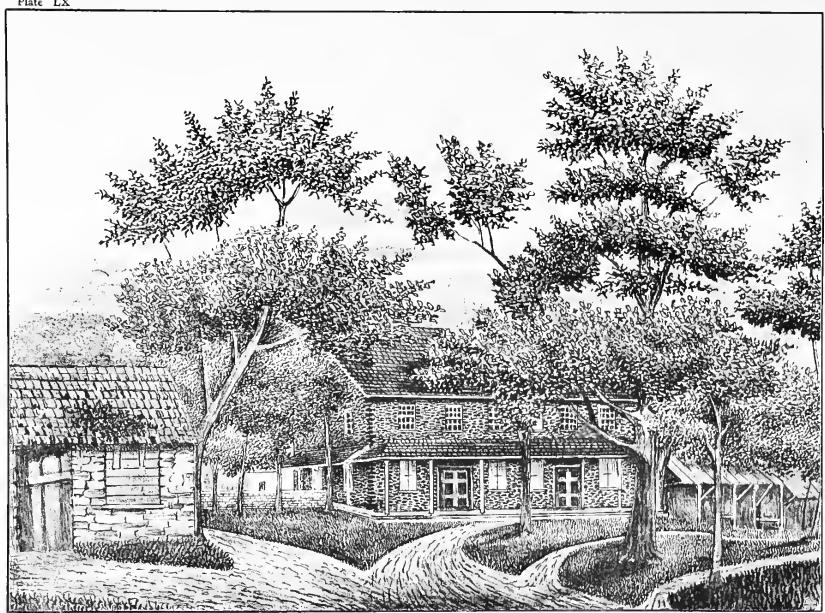


PLATE LX.

The Gwynedd Friends Meeting House

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